Contra Costa County Historical Society

BULLETIN

POST OFFICE BOX 190 FEBRUARY 15, 1975 MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA

West County History Subject of March Meeting

This is how Pinole's Main Street appeared in 1906. McLaughlin's Saloon (later Stats Saloon), first building on right, was directly across the street from Borba's Saloon. Pinole Hotel can be seen in middle of block on right. Bank of Pinole is the small white building in the distance on left side of street.

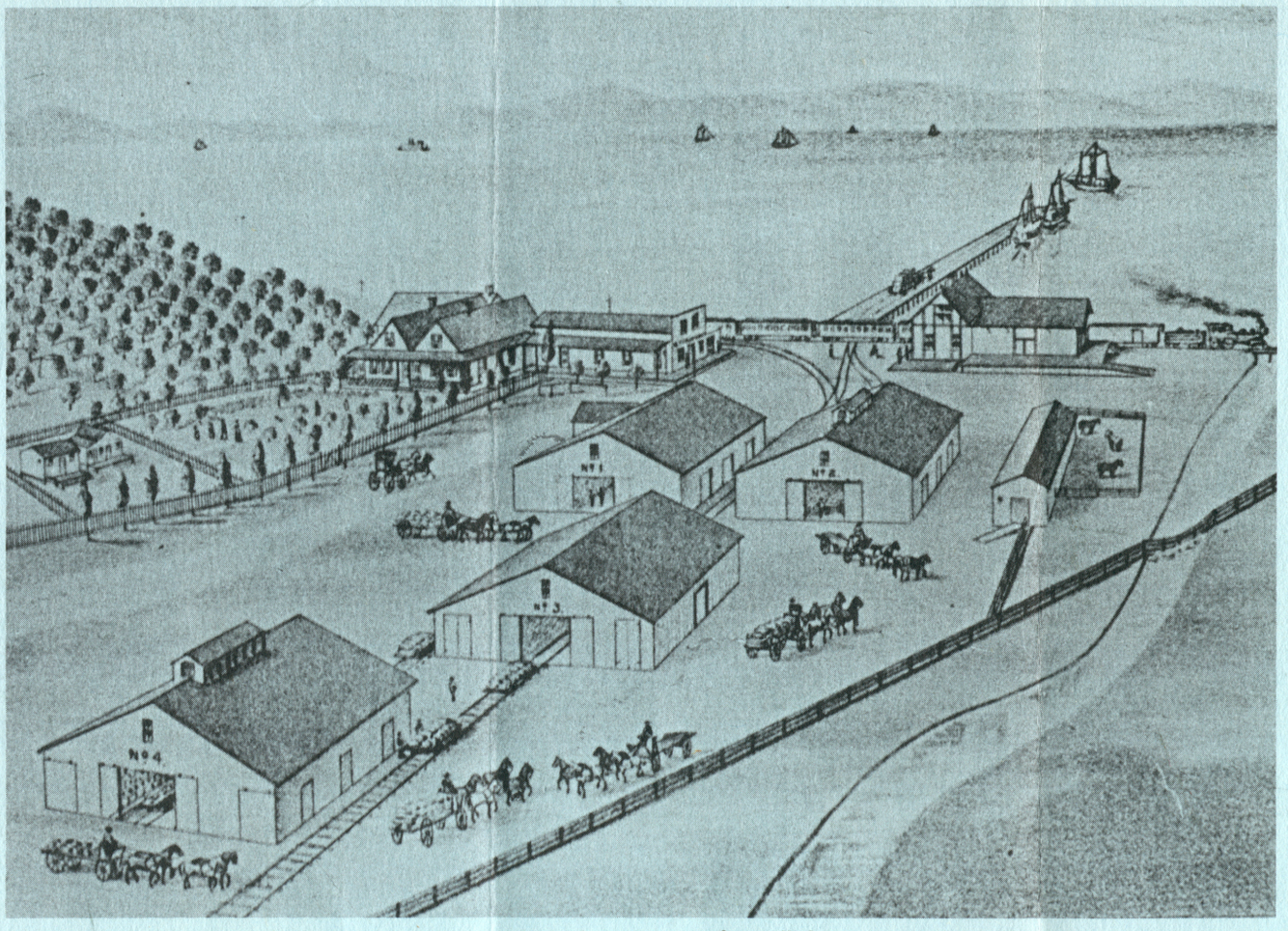
The Pinole Historical Society will co-host with the county Society a joint meeting March 5, 1975, on the history of early Pinole, Hercules and environs, gathering in a popular restaurant near the Carquinez Bridge. West county historians will present the program.

They will include George Vincent, Mrs. Jessie Clark and Edward D. Armstrong who will speak as a panel. Moderating will be Dr. Joseph Mariotti, president of the Pinole Historical Society.

Subjects on the agenda to be taken up by the panel will cover the founding and growth of Pinole and the nearby powder works at Hercules. Early settlers of the area, like the family of Ignacio Martinez, one-time commandante of the San Francisco Presidio; Bernardo Fernandez, the early shoreline merchant; and Dr. Samuel Tennett, erstwhile ship's doctor who became a wealthy cattle baron, likewise will be exposed to the light of history recounted.

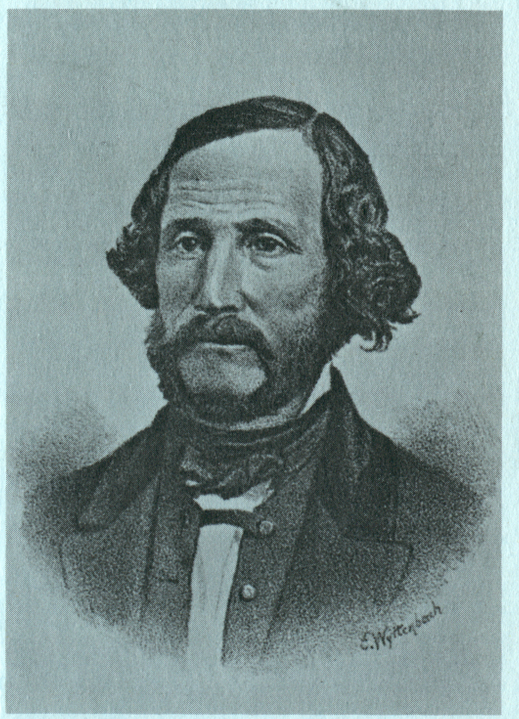
The meeting has been called at Vera's Villa Valona Restaurant, 20050 Highway 40, Crockett, a familiar dinery for most West county residents. From the central county area, it is reached by way of Highway 4 westbound to the Cummings Skyway, thence to Crockett and west on the old highway to about 3 blocks west of the Carquinez Bridge.

Dinner, preceded by no-host cocktails, will be served at 7:30 p.m. Members and guests of both historical societies are invited.



An early view of the Bernardo Fernandez warehouses and wharf at what is now the foot of Tennett Avenue in Pinole facing Pinole Bay, then called Sonoma Bay. Fernandez, a Portuguese sea captain, owned 2 sloops for transbay freighting service, a general store and 4 large grain warehouses.

Bernardo Fernandez. Prominent early-day merchant and resident of Pinole.



Dr. Samuel Tennett, a London surgeon who signed on a whaler as ship's doctor, then was put ashore at Lahaina, Sandwich Islands in a dispute with the captain, came to California to investigate the gold strikes. He stayed after marriage to the daughter of El Rancho Pinole's Ignacio Martinez, gave up doctoring and became a cattle rancher.

The Fernandez Mansion on Pinole's waterfront, built in 1894, is the third home, and the most affluent, he built for his Chilean wife, Carlota Cuadra. The house has 21 rooms and is sited on a low rise overlooking San Pablo Bay at the foot of Tennett Avenue. It is now the home of Dr. Joseph Mariotti, president of The Pinole Historical Society, and has been marked as an historical site.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DINNER & PROGRAM

Speakers: George Vincent
Mrs. Jessie Clark
Jessie Clark
Edward D. Armstrong
Joseph Mariotti,
Moderator

Date: March 5, 1975

Place: Vera's Villa Valona
Restaurant
20050 Highway 40
Crockett

Time: 7:00 p.m., no-host cocktails
7:30 p.m., dinner, $5.50

Reservations: To J. B. Jory, Sect'y
P.O. Box 190
Martinez, CA 94553

COME ONE! COME ALL!